

AN OBITUARY NOTICE OF CHARLES B. TREGO.

BY SOLOMON W. ROBERTS.

(Read before the American Philosophical Society, Feb. 19, 1875)

Charles B. Trego was born near Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, November 25th, 1794.

His ancestors were French Huguenots, who emigrated to England and, some of the family having become members of the Society of Friends, came over to America in the time of William Penn and settled at Chester, on the Delaware, and afterwards removed to Bucks County.

His boyhood was passed on his father's farm, and he went to school in the neighborhood ; but not liking the occupation of farming, and anxious to improve himself, he began when young to teach school, and at the same time to study German ; which was the language commonly spoken by many of the farmers. His handwriting was remarkably regular and beautiful, and continued to be so even to old age.

About 1821 he removed to Philadelphia, and taught a school in the city, living for a time in the same house with a German teacher of languages, and adding to the study of German, that of French, Spanish, Latin, Greek and Hebrew.

He taught school until he was about forty years of age, and studied Geology, Mineralogy and Botany, making a special study of Geology.

Although much occupied in studying and teaching, he took a lively interest in public affairs. In 1835 a political change took place in Pennsylvania, and the party to which he belonged was successful, electing the Governor and controlling the Legislature ; and Mr. Trego was elected a member of the House of Representatives from the City of Philadelphia. He was also re-elected in the following year.

Soon after his election he introduced and was mainly instrumental in having enacted into a law, the Act for the first Geological Survey of Pennsylvania. It is understood that the post of State Geologist was offered to him by Governor Ritner, and declined by Mr. Trego. Professor Henry D. Rogers, received the appointment, and began the survey in 1836. In 1837, Mr. Trego became an assistant of Professor Rogers, and he continued in the survey until 1841 ; when he was again elected to the Legislature, and was re-chosen, year after year, until 1847 ; when he declined a re-election, and was succeeded by the writer of this obituary notice.

Mr. Trego was an intelligent, careful, pains-taking and honest legislator, and a faithful servant of the City of Philadelphia and of his native State. His knowledge of the different parts of Pennsylvania, and the character of his culture, gave him broad views, and added to his influence with his fellow members, and to his usefulness as a member from the city ; as in many cases members from the country show an unwilling-

ness to be influenced by those from the city, unless they find them to be familiar with the interior of the State.

There is no doubt that the degree of success that attended the first Geological Survey, was largely due to Mr. Trego's influence at Harrisburg.

In 1843 he prepared and published a work on the Geography of Pennsylvania, which is a book of nearly four hundred pages, containing a large amount of information concerning the State. In the preface he says that "in the course of his duties as Assistant State Geologist, during four years, and on various other occasions, the author has visited most parts of the State, and has thus enjoyed opportunities of acquiring much local information concerning the different subjects embraced in this work."

He also prepared a mass of materials with the view of writing the history of the City of Philadelphia, and it is to be regretted that he never completed it.

Mr. Trego was, for some time, Professor of Geology in the Scientific Department of the University of Pennsylvania, and delivered lectures upon it in that institution.

On the 20th of January, 1843, more than thirty years ago, four persons who had been active in the affairs of the Franklin Institute, were elected members of the American Philosophical Society. They were Charles B. Trego, Charles Ellet, Jr., Ellwood Morris and the writer of this notice, who is now the sole survivor of the four.

On the 7th of January, 1848, Mr. Trego was elected one of the Secretaries, and was soon after chosen Librarian; and on the 15th of August, 1851, he was elected Treasurer of the Society, which office he retained until his death, a period of more than twenty years; and he also continued until the close of his life to be one of the Secretaries.

On the 30th day of June, 1854, the corporate existence of the Districts, Boroughs and Townships of the County of Philadelphia ceased, and they were merged in one municipal corporation with the City of Philadelphia; and about that time Mr. Trego removed into what had been the District of Spring Garden, and at once identified himself with the political and other interests of that part of the consolidated city.

From 1856 to 1862 he was a member of the City Council, and for four years of that time he was President of the Common Council. His long Legislative experience had made him very familiar with the rules of order of representative bodies, and his uprightness and firmness fitted him to preside. In 1863, when about sixty-nine years of age, he retired entirely from public life.

From that time until shortly before his death, he devoted himself, during eleven years, very much to the business and to the interests of the American Philosophical Society; not only attending the meetings, but occupying himself, for much of his time during business hours, in the Library of the Society. Here he was fond of seeing his old friends, and of talking over curious incidents in the history of the City and State.

He died of the disease of the heart, on the 10th of November, 1874 ; at which time he was within fifteen days of being eighty years old. He was buried in the burial-ground attached to the Friends' Meeting House, at Wrightstown, Bucks County. His widow and one son constitute his surviving family.

A number of the facts contained in this brief biographical notice, have been communicated to the writer by Mr. Trego's son, Mr. F. A. Trego, who has sought among his father's papers since his death, for his private journal, but has not been able to find it.

In looking back over the life of Mr. Trego, we see that while it was not distinguished by any very remarkable incidents, he has left behind him a good record.

He maintained the good reputation of the race from which he was descended ; and living to the age of nearly four score years, he was useful to the end of his career, and as the faithful Treasurer of the American Philosophical Society, and the collector and disburser of its funds for nearly a quarter of a century, his memory well deserves to be honored by the members of the Society, as that of a good citizen, a lover of science, and a faithful steward of the talents with which he was intrusted.

ANALYSES OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN COAL.

BY J. BLODGET BRITTON AND C. M. CRESSON.

(*Read at a Meeting of the American Philosophical Society, Nov. 6, 1874.*)

The four coals from east of the Rocky Mountains and on the line of the Union Pacific Railroad, exhibited at the meeting held on the 6th ult., I have since analyzed for metallurgical purposes, with the following results :

CARBON COAL, FROM THE MINE AT CARBON.

(*Sample consisted of several pieces, and weighed 12 lbs.*)

Water	12.50
Volatile combustible matter.....	35.47
Fixed carbon.....	44.96
Ash.....	7.07
	100.00
One hundred parts of the raw coal gave of coke.....	53.03
The coke was composed of	
Carbon	86.42
Ash.....	13.58
	100.00
	Including sulphur 1.03
	Phosphorustrace